



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Attorney Docket No. 12770US01

Signature
9.25.02
#19/a

In the Application of:)
Doyle et al.)
Serial No.: 09/273,673) Express Mail No. EV134753210US
Filed: March 22, 1999) Date: September 18, 2002
For: Computer Apparatus and Method)
for Trading and Clearing Futures)
Contracts to Accommodate a)
Variable Sensitivity Related to the)
General Level of Interest Rates)
Examiner: Frantzy Poinvil)
Group Art Unit: 2164)

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AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

This Amendment is a response to the Office Action mailed March 18, 2002. This Amendment is being mailed with a petition for a three-month extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) which ends September 18, 2002.

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the abstract as follows:

(Amended) Certain embodiments include a method and apparatus for trading and clearing futures contracts using a clearing computer system. The apparatus includes providing a clearing computer system with an input device for receiving user input information including a base tick value and a trade price. The apparatus also includes a database for storing the user input information. The apparatus further includes a processor with programmable circuitry for

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